4

13+ TEEN

BATMAN

™

ENTER... THE MINOTAUR

FRACTION
JIMÉNEZ
MOREY

ALL IN

ROUND 1
DC K.O.: SUPERMAN VS. CAPTAIN ATOM #1
WRITTEN BY JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
ART BY SEAN IZAAKSE
COVER BY JORGE CORONA

ROUND 2
AQUAMAN #12
(AQUAMAN VS. HAWKMAN!)
WRITTEN BY JEREMY ADAMS
ART AND COVER BY JOHN TIMMS

ROUND 3
DC K.O.: WONDER WOMAN VS. LOBO #1
WRITTEN BY JOËLLE JONES
ART BY JASON HOWARD AND CARY NORD
COVER BY JORGE CORONA

ROUND 4
TITANS #30
(CYBORG VS. SWAMP THING!)
WRITTEN BY JOHN LAYMAN
ART AND COVER BY PETE WOODS

ROUND 5
DC K.O.: HARLEY QUINN VS. ZATANNA #1
WRITTEN BY LEAH WILLIAMS
ART BY MIRKA ANDOLFO
COVER BY JORGE CORONA

ROUND 6
THE FLASH #28
(JAY GARRICK VS. GUY GARDNER!)
WRITTEN BY MARK WAID AND CHRISTOPHER CANTWELL
ART BY VASCO GEORGIEV
COVER BY DAN MORA

ROUND 7
SUPERMAN #33
(LEX LUTHOR VS. THE DEMON!)
WRITTEN BY JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
ART AND COVER BY HAYDEN SHERMAN

ROUND 8
DC K.O.: RED HOOD VS. JOKER #1
WRITTEN BY SCOTT SNYDER AND JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
ART BY DUSTIN NGUYEN AND GIUSEPPE CAMUNCOLI
COVER BY JORGE CORONA

PORT OF GOTHAM
Shí Huán HK-Ltd. Berthing

ANKE

LOYD TRIES IN

BEZNA TRANSPO

IT'S AN AMB--

BREAKING NEWS OVERNIGHT OF A **FIREFIGHT** AT THE PORT OF GOTHAM--

--THE VIOLENT SCENE CAPTURED IN THIS **EXCLUSIVE** AND **DISTURBING** FOOTAGE FROM NEWSDRONE-4--

GG

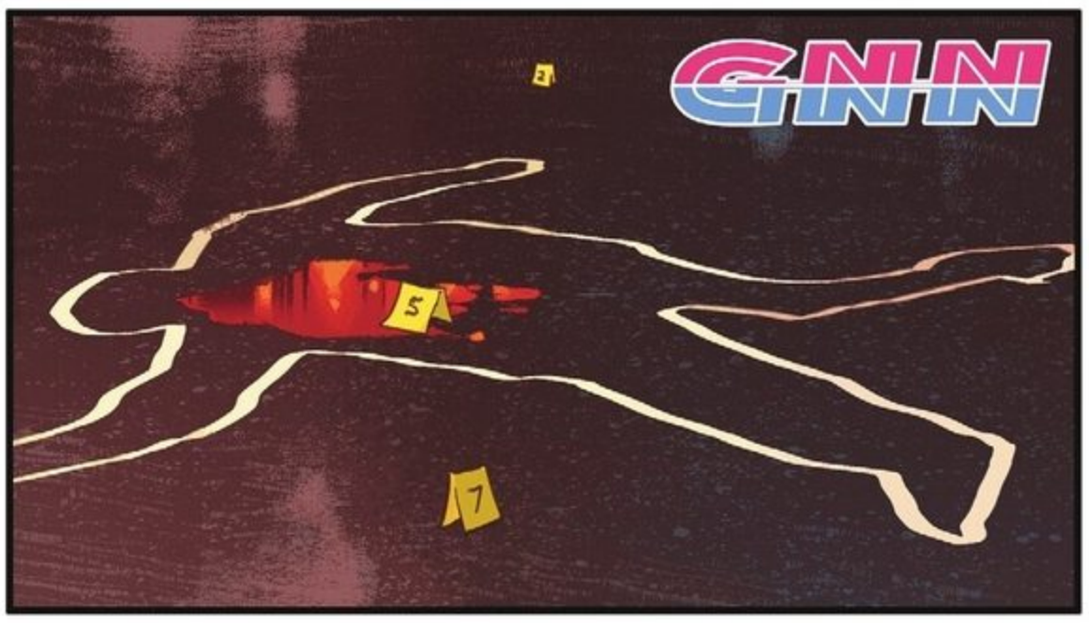
GOTHAM GANG

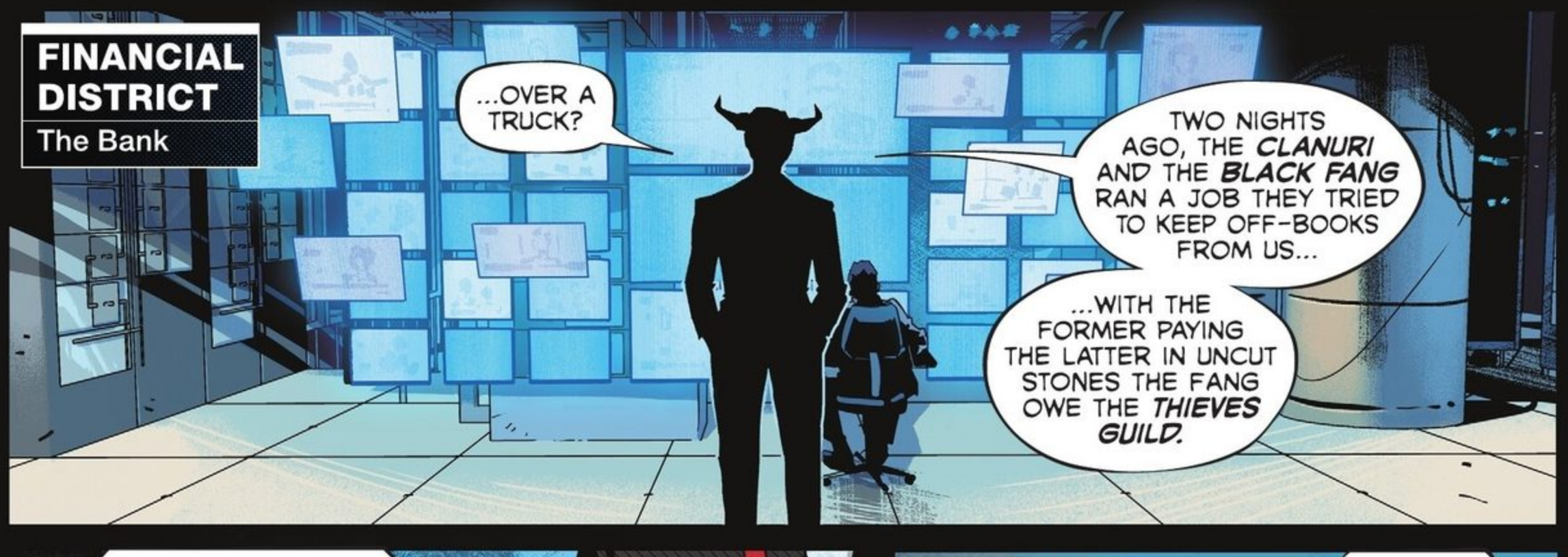
4

--FOUR-ALARM FIRE BROKE OUT OVERNIGHT IN THE SLABS--

--THREE **BUSINESSMEN** IN WOLF HILL GUNNED DOWN--

ALL OF THIS...




FINANCIAL DISTRICT
The Bank
...OVER A TRUCK?
TWO NIGHTS AGO, THE CLANURI AND THE BLACK FANG RAN A JOB THEY TRIED TO KEEP OFF-BOOKS FROM US...
...WITH THE FORMER PAYING THE LATTER IN UNCUT STONES THE FANG OWE THE THIEVES GUILD.
SAID STONES WERE CLEVERLY STASHED IN A BEZNA TRUCK'S GAS TANK.
OF COURSE, SOME RANDOM, RAT-ASS UNDERGANG TRIES TO BOOST SAID TRUCK.
THE TRUCK-JACKERS GET GOT, GCPD IMPOUNDS THE TRUCK, NOBODY GETS PAID...
...AND THEN LAST NIGHT...
...CHAOS ENSUES.
NOW THREE OF OUR PARTNERS ARE LOCKED INTO A GANG WAR OVER A STUPID COINCIDENCE.
NO.
COINCIDENCE ONLY BRINGS GOOD FORTUNE.
THIS IS A CONSPIRACY.
WE HAVE A RAT. FIND THEM. AND IN THE MEANTIME...

...FREEZE ALL *TORUS* ACCOUNTS AT THE *BANK, NOW.*

THE *CAPITOLINAS*...

...THE *CLANURI INTERLOPE*...

...*DANTAI TOZUKI*...

...THE *THIEVES*...

...THE *BLACK FANG*...

...AND *LA PENITENTA.*

IF THE ONLY THING THESE *ANIMALS* UNDERSTAND IS *MONEY*...

...THEN NONE OF THESE ANIMALS CAN *HAVE* ANY UNTIL THEY LEARN TO ACT LIKE *MEN.*

THE *MINOTAUR* CALLS FOR *PARLEY.*

I'M IN THE MOOD TO RUIN EVERYBODY'S *NIGHT,* SO CALL YOUR LITTLE MORLOCKS IN THE SEWERS AND...

DC COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS

4

BATMAN

"DROP THE SMOKE."

MATT FRACTION WRITER
JORGE JIMÉNEZ ARTIST AND COVER
TOMEU MOREY COLORS
CLAYTON COWLES with **JORGE JIMÉNEZ** LETTERS

JIM LEE, SCOTT WILLIAMS & ALEX SINCLAIR;
JULIAN TOTINO TEDESCO; FELIPE MASSAFERA; JORGE JIMÉNEZ;
DAVID AJA VARIANT COVERS

JESSICA BERBEY ASSOCIATE EDITOR
ROB LEVIN EDITOR

BATMAN CREATED BY **BOB KANE** WITH **BILL FINGER**

HARBORVIEW
Wayne Experimental Sciences Building
I, AH. EXCUSE ME...
...DR. ZELLER?
DR. ANNIKA ZELLER?
I'M WORKING.
TALK TO DR. BATMAN.
...
BEG YOUR PARDON?
THE STUFFED BAT OVER THERE.
ENGINEERING NAMED HIM "DR. BATMAN."
ASK HIM YOUR QUESTION FIRST.
IN DETAIL.
HE'S ONLY A STUFFED BAT, SO HE'S PRETTY DUMB.
EVERYBODY'S GOTTA GO THROUGH BATMAN TO GET TO ME.

HH.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
ARE YOU *NEW* HERE?
FIRST TIME IN THE BUILDING OR SOMETHING?
UH.
ACTUALLY, YEAH, IT IS.
OFFICE POLICY, NEW GUY:
WHEN PEOPLE COME TO ME WITH PROJECT-RELATED PROBLEMS--
--MOST TIMES, THE SOLUTIONS PRESENT THEMSELVES WHILE THEY EXPLAIN IT TO ME.
WHICH, HEY, GREAT FOR THEM.
BUT FOR ME, IT'S A TOTAL TRAIN-OF-THOUGHT DERAILMENT--FLOW'S SHOT, MOMENTUM GONE. TIME ***WASTED.***
SO TELL THE BAT. AND IF ***HE*** CAN'T HELP YOU, ***THEN*** I WILL.
DOCTOR...
...BATMAN.
WHY *TITANOGRAPHENE?*
IT'S ***RARE,*** PATENTED, DIFFICULT TO FABRICATE, ***EXPENSIVE***--
WON'T LAST.
WE PLAY THE LONG GAME HERE.

WE'RE FIGHTING A ***FOREVER WAR*** AGAINST A PERSISTENT, HOSTILE ***CONDITION--***

--THE ***CHAOS*** IN OUR PATIENTS' MINDS.

IT CAN ONLY BE COUNTERED BY PERSISTENT, BENEVOLENT ***TACTICS.***

ONE DAY THE ***CROWN OF STORMS*** WILL BE NO DIFFERENT FROM A ***PACEMAKER,*** SO WE BUILD FOR PERMANENCE ***NOW.***

OTHERWISE, WE MAY AS WELL BE MAKING BOATS OUT OF PAPER. FINE AS A ***MODEL...***

...BUT PUT IT IN WATER AND YOU SINK.

BINGO.

SO WE DO IT ***RIGHT.***

EVEN IF "RIGHT" MEANS...?

AN EXPENSIVE SLOG WITH LITTLE ***PROFIT*** POTENTIAL BEYOND HELPING THE MENTALLY ILL.

TOUGH SELL.

MAYBE.

IF I EVER GET INTO A ROOM WITH BRUCE WAYNE TO PLEAD MY CASE, I'LL LET YOU KNOW.

TOK

AAH!

BRUCE WAYNE.

HI.

...

DR. ANNIKA ZELLER.

HI.

HAVE...

...HAVE WE MET?

3 ← Issues Ago

"...DON'T THINK SO."

IT REALLY *IS* MY FIRST TIME IN THE BUILDING.

AFTER THE, *AHH,* ***EVENTS*** OF LAST NIGHT--

--THE ***RIDDLER*** AND WHATNOT--

I THOUGHT I'D POP MY HEAD IN, SEE IF EVERYTHING WAS OKAY HERE.

IF I KNEW ***ATTEMPTED ROBBERY*** WAS WHAT IT TOOK TO GRAB YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION, I'D HAVE BROKEN IN MYSELF A YEAR AGO, MR. WAYNE.

"BRUCE."

AND... MY TIME AND ATTENTION ARE ALL YOURS TOMORROW NIGHT. SAY, SEVEN? I'LL PICK YOU UP.

SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR ***FLOW,*** DOCTOR.

SEVEN? SEVEN WHAT?

I--

--I DON'T...

DOOOOOO...

...YOU HAVE A DATE WITH BRUCE WAYNE?

WHAT? NO.

WHAT?

NO.

YOU, *UH...*

...YOU HAVE ***REAL*** SHOES, RIGHT?

LOWER GOTHAM
Paper Row

The Gotham Eye

WISH YOU COULD'VE SEEN THIS PLACE BACK WHEN IT WAS A REAL ***NEWSPAPER.***

ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WERE ***SEVENTEEN*** DAILIES IN TOWN, BUT NOW...

...FFT.

I KNOW CHERRY HILL ***FUNERAL HOMES*** MORE ALIVE THAN ***THIS*** PLACE.

SO WHAT HAPPENED?

MORE ***DRIVERS,*** FEWER ***COMMUTERS.*** CABLE NEWS. NUMBER OF PAPERS GOES DOWN-- ***PAPER*** PRICES GO UP.

CAPITALISM.

S'RIGHT, KIDDO. END STAGE.

THEN CAME THE ***INTERNET...*** AND THE ***MONEY VAMPIRES*** FOLLOWED.

THEY DUMP ALL THEIR DEBT ***HERE,*** THEN STRIP THE PLACE OF ***ASSETS*** LIKE COPPER THIEVES PULLING ***WIRING*** OUT OF THE WALLS.

THEN CAME THE DOWNSIZING, THE ***BUYOUTS,*** THE ***LAYOFFS...***

THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? THE MONEY VAMPIRES?

NAH, THEY ***FIRED*** MY ASS. I'M A DRUNK.

YOU-- WHAT?

BOSS!

"THE EYE OVER GOTHAM NEVER BLINKS," RIGHT? I GOT SOMETHING YOU SHOULD ***SEE.***

BOILER-MAKER JACK ***DEAN,*** BACK LIKE A BAD PENNY...

MANAGING EDITOR

6 Min. Later

HE YELLING?

LOOKS LIKE *YELLING.*

UH-OH.

--PAGANDA-SPEWING ***APPARATCHIK*** WHO ***USED*** TO RUN A ***REAL*** NEWSPAPER--

AND YOU USED TO BE A REAL ***JOURNALIST,*** JACK, WHAT HAPPENED ***THERE?***

OH YEAH, YOU'RE A ***DRUNK!***

C'MON, KID--

WHO THE HELL ARE ***YOU?***

I SAID ***COME ON!***

HEY, WHAT'S A BOILERMAKER?

SHUT ***UP.***

--OF ***RED STEAM*** INSTEAD OF ***WHITE*** POURING OUT OF MANHOLE VENTS...

LITTLE TOKYO
Dantai Tozuki

"...FROM ALL **ACROSS** GOTHAM CITY TODAY, RAISING CONCERNS OF A POSSIBLE **CHEMICAL** ATTACK.

ALLEYTOWN
The Thieves Guild

"A SPOKESMAN FOR **GOTHAM WATER AND POWER** INSISTED NOTHING'S WRONG--

WOLF HILL
La Mano Nera

"--EVEN THOUGH A PROPER EXPLANATION REMAINS FORTHCOMING.

THE BOWERY
Clanuri Interlope

"'GO BACK TO SLEEP,' THE SPOKESMAN SAID TO THIS REPORTER. 'EVERYTHING'S FINE.'"

DAMMIT.

DAMMIT, DAMMIT, DAMMIT.

OKAY. BE COOL. COME ON.

BE COOL, GRAB YOUR GEAR, AND GET--

AAAHH!

Friends of yours?

Seem pretty stupid.

B

!

--DAMMIT--

HEFF

HEFF

HUPP--

WHAT WAS THE *PLAN* HERE, LONNIE?

KRASH!

BATHOOK
- 5000 PSI pneumatic cylinder
- 30m graphene wireline
- Electromag pentagrapnel

BECAUSE THIS ONE SEEMS PRETTY *WEAK.*

THOOM!

FSSSS!

GAAHK--

SPKOO

WHA-KHOM!

AAAH!

YOU TRY TO STEAL A TRUCK--

--FAIL MISERABLY--

--AND NOW...

...YOU HAVE GANGS OF GOONS LURKING AROUND YOUR SQUAT WAITING TO ***GET YOU.***

DOESN'T ADD UP.

HOW DID A TRUCK YOU ***DIDN'T*** STEAL MAKE ***ANARKY*** THE GOTHAM UNDERWORLD'S MOST WANTED?

I DON'T KNOW, MAN. I SWEAR.

GUY PAID ME A GRAND TO BOOST THE TRUCK AND DUMP IT INTO THE ***RIVER.*** THAT'S IT. THAT'S ALL.

BUT EVERYTHING WENT ***BAD.***

DEAD ***DRIVER,*** DEAD ***FLUNKY,*** DEAD ***COPS...***

THE ***BLACK FANG,*** THE ***BEZNAS,*** AND THE ***THIEVES GUILD*** GUNNING FOR EACH OTHER AND FOR ***YOU...***

"BAD" UNDERSELLS IT, LONNIE.

I--

I WANNA TURN-- WHATCHALLIT--

--STATE'S EVIDENCE.

TAKE ME TO THE *COPS.* THE *D.A.* THE *FEDS,* I DON'T CARE. JUST TAKE ME IN.

PROTECT ME.

YOU'RE REALLY *SCARED* HERE, LONNIE.

YOU'RE *SO* SCARED YOU JUMPED OUT OF A WINDOW WITH NO WAY *DOWN.*

WHO ARE YOU RUNNING FROM, LONNIE?

ARE YOU MESSING WITH ME?

I CAN'T TELL IF IT'S THE CONCUSSION OR THE BLOOD RUSHING TO MY HEAD OR IF YOU'RE MESSING WITH ME.

I DON'T HAVE *TIME* TO MESS WITH YOU, LONNIE.

TELL ME WHAT'S GOING *ON.*

FFH. SOME *DETECTIVE* YOU ARE.

HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED HOW *QUIET* IT'S BEEN?

HOW THE *FREAKS* ARE ALL LAYING LOW AND THERE'S NOBODY BUT *JANK-ASS STREET GANGS* PULLING JOBS OUT THERE?

THERE'S A *NEW GUY* IN CHARGE OF ORGANIZED CRIME IN GOTHAM...

...AND, I'M *TELLING* YOU...

...HE'S GOT IT REALLY, *REALLY* ORGANIZED...

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP
Old Wayne Manor

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE *TORUS:*

GOOD EVENING.

KNOW THAT, AS PART OF MY ***ARRANGEMENT*** WITH YOUR GROUP--

--***ALL OF YOU*** HAVE MY ***PERSONAL*** GUARANTEE OF SAFETY ON THESE PREMISES.

COME IN. WELCOME. WE'RE ABOUT TO BEGIN.

*"WHERE THERE IS VALUE, THERE IS **CRIME.**"*

WHERE THERE IS ***CRIME***, THERE IS ***PROFIT...***

...AND WHERE THERE IS PROFIT...

...***THE TORUS*** SHALL REAP.

A "TORUS" IS ONE OF THE ***PRIME KNOTS.***

SEVEN INDEPENDENT YET INTERCONNECTED LOOPS MADE UNBREAKABLE TOGETHER.

JUST LIKE US:

LA MANO NERA, CONTROLLED BY ***LUPO CAPITOLINA,*** WHO RUNS ***VICE*** RACKETS IN GOTHAM FROM CASINO TO CATHOUSE...

...THE ***BEZNA*** FAMILY, OF ***CLANURI INTERLOPE,*** WHO CONTROL OUR TRANSPORT AND DISTRIBUTION WORLDWIDE...

...***TOZUKI***-SAN, WHO, THROUGH HIS ***TOZUKI PETRO*** FRONT COMPANY, PROVIDES OUR ***CHEMICAL*** AND ***TECH*** MATERIEL...

...MR. ***COBBLEPOT*** AND HIS ***THIEVES GUILD*** CONTROL OUR, *AHH--*

--***MERCANTILE*** SECTOR.

FĀNG HĒI, OF ***SHÍ HUÁN HK***- LTD., WHO FURNISH ALL ***ARMAMENTS*** AND CERTAIN...

...***SOFT*** GOODS...

...WHILE THE ***CARTEL*** HANDLES ***PHARMA*** AND ***MANPOWER*** WITH THE SIGNATURE ***FLAIR*** OF THE SISTERS OF ***LA PENITENTA...***

...AND I'M THE ***BANK.***

I MANAGE ALL INTERNECINE CONTRACTS AND TRADE RATES, AND I KEEP YOUR MONEY FLOWING, CLEAN, AND ***INSURED.***

AND IT ***WORKS...***

...AS LONG AS THE ***SEVEN*** OF US WORK TOGETHER IN ***HARMONY.***

KUTTLER.

BEFORE THE, *UH,* CURRENT ***UNPLEASANTNESS,*** PROFITS WERE UP 418 PERCENT YEAR-OVER-YEAR.

AT THIS RATE, WE'LL MISS QUARTERLY PROJECTIONS IN ***EIGHT*** DAYS.

OVER THE LAST DAY, WE'RE DOWN 4.4 MILLION ***EACH.***

IN MY FUNCTION AS ***THE BANK,*** I FROZE ***EVERYONE'S*** ACCOUNTS.

I THOUGHT IF ***MONEY*** MEANT MORE THAN YOUR ***BOND*** TO THE REST OF US, CUTTING EVERYONE ***OFF*** WOULD GET YOUR ***ATTENTION.***

BUT JUST IN CASE...

...I BROUGHT SOME OF YOUR ***FAMILY*** HERE TONIGHT.

SO DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION NOW?

MY BEAUTIFUL *LOLA--*

YOU *DARE--*

TCH.

SEE, THE TORUS ISN'T REALLY AN ORGANIZATION, LIKE A *GANG* OR A *FAMILY--*

--IT'S A *SYSTEM.*

AN *ALGORITHM OF CRIME.*

AND I'M THE ONLY PERSON ALIVE WHO CAN KEEP THE WHOLE EQUATION IN MY HEAD.

I'VE BUILT THE WORLD'S FIRST RESILIENT *CRIMINAL EMPIRE* AT *SCALE.*

I GUARANTEED YOU ALL INFINITE PROFIT ON AN INFINITE CURVE.

AND IT COULD ONLY HAPPEN WITH *US,* HERE AND NOW, IN THIS UNIQUE MOMENT:

A BUSINESS-FRIENDLY *POLICE* FORCE.

A MALLEABLE *CITY HALL.*

AN INCURIOUS *PRESS.*

FREAK CRIME BROUGHT TO HEEL. AND BY CHOKING OFF THE *STREET GANGS...*

...THE BAT STAYS TOO BUSY TO REALIZE HOW *ENTANGLED* WE'VE ALL BECOME.

AND HOW *SUCCESSFUL.*

IN *TWENTY MONTHS,* THE *TORUS* WILL CONTROL A PIECE OF *EVERY* REVENUE STREAM IN GOTHAM, CRIMINAL *OR* LEGITIMATE.

IN TWENTY *YEARS?* THE WORLD.

WHEN ONE OF US EARNS, WE *ALL* EARN.

TSK! TSK! TSK! TSK! TSK! TSK! TSK!

BUT WHEN ONE OF US BLEEDS...

...WE ALL BLEED!

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

"HE'S CALLED *THE MINOTAUR,* BATMAN...

"HE'S TURNED *GOTHAM CITY* INTO A *LABYRINTH OF CRIME.*

"AND YOU'RE TOO LATE TO *STOP HIM.*

"WE'RE ALREADY TRAPPED INSIDE OF IT WITH HIM...

"...AND THERE'S NO WAY OUT."

GOTHAM CITY
You don't have to be crazy to live here... but it helps!

ALL FIGHT MONTH FIRST LOOK!

APPROVED
BY THE
AUTHORITY
OF
DC COMICS

TO BE CONTINUED IN
RED HOOD VS. JOKER
ON SALE IN DECEMBER!

DC ALL IN

DECEMBER

ABSOLUTE

BATMAN

#15

JOKER

ABSOLUTE JOKER TAKES HIS TRUE FORM.

JOCK

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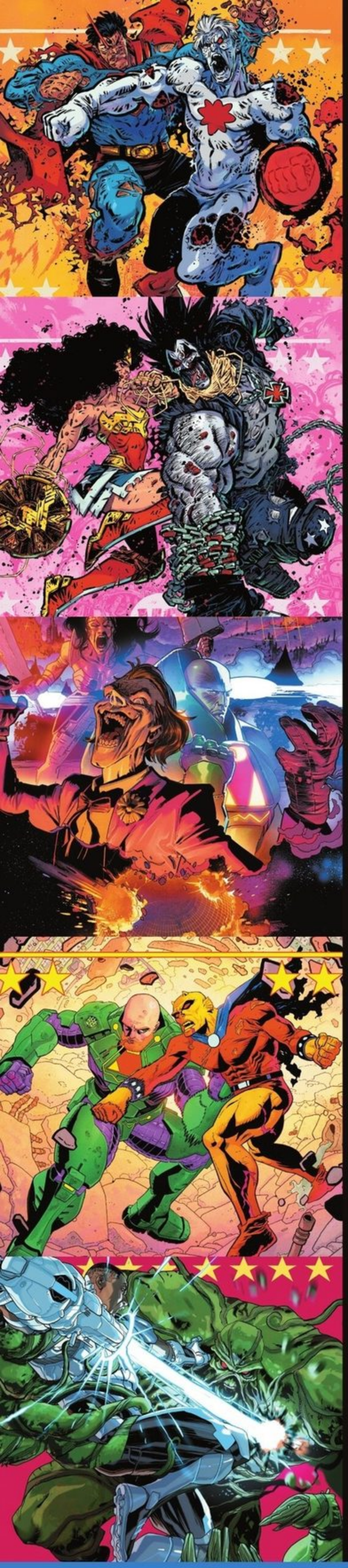
Writer **SCOTT SNYDER** reunites with legendary artist **JOCK** for an epic tale in the Absolute Universe.

Cover art by **NICK DRAGOTTA** and **FRANK MARTIN**



DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

DC K.O.

DC K.O. CONTINUES IN DECEMBER WITH THE HARD-HITTING ALL FIGHT MONTH!

DECEMBER:

- ■ *DC K.O. KNIGHTFIGHT #2*
- ■ *DC K.O.: SUPERMAN VS. CAPTAIN ATOM*
- ■ *AQUAMAN #12*
- ■ *DC K.O.: WONDER WOMAN VS. LOBO*
- ■ *TITANS #30*
- ■ *DC K.O.: HARLEY QUINN VS. ZATANNA*
- ■ *THE FLASH #28*
- ■ *SUPERMAN #33*
- ■ *DC K.O.: RED HOOD VS. JOKER*
- ■ *JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED #14*

JANUARY:

- ■ *DC K.O. KNIGHTFIGHT #3*
- ■ *DC K.O. #3*
- ■ *TITANS #31*
- ■ *DC K.O.: GREEN LANTERN GALACTIC SLAM*
- ■ *SUPERMAN #34*
- ■ *THE FLASH #29*
- ■ *JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED #15*
- ■ *DC K.O.: THE KIDS ARE ALL FIGHT SPECIAL*

FEBRUARY:

- ■ *DC K.O. KNIGHTFIGHT #4*
- ■ *DC K.O. #4*
- ■ *TITANS #32*
- ■ *SUPERMAN #35*
- ■ *THE FLASH #30*
- ■ *JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED #16*

MARCH:

- ■ *DC K.O. #5*

ALL IN

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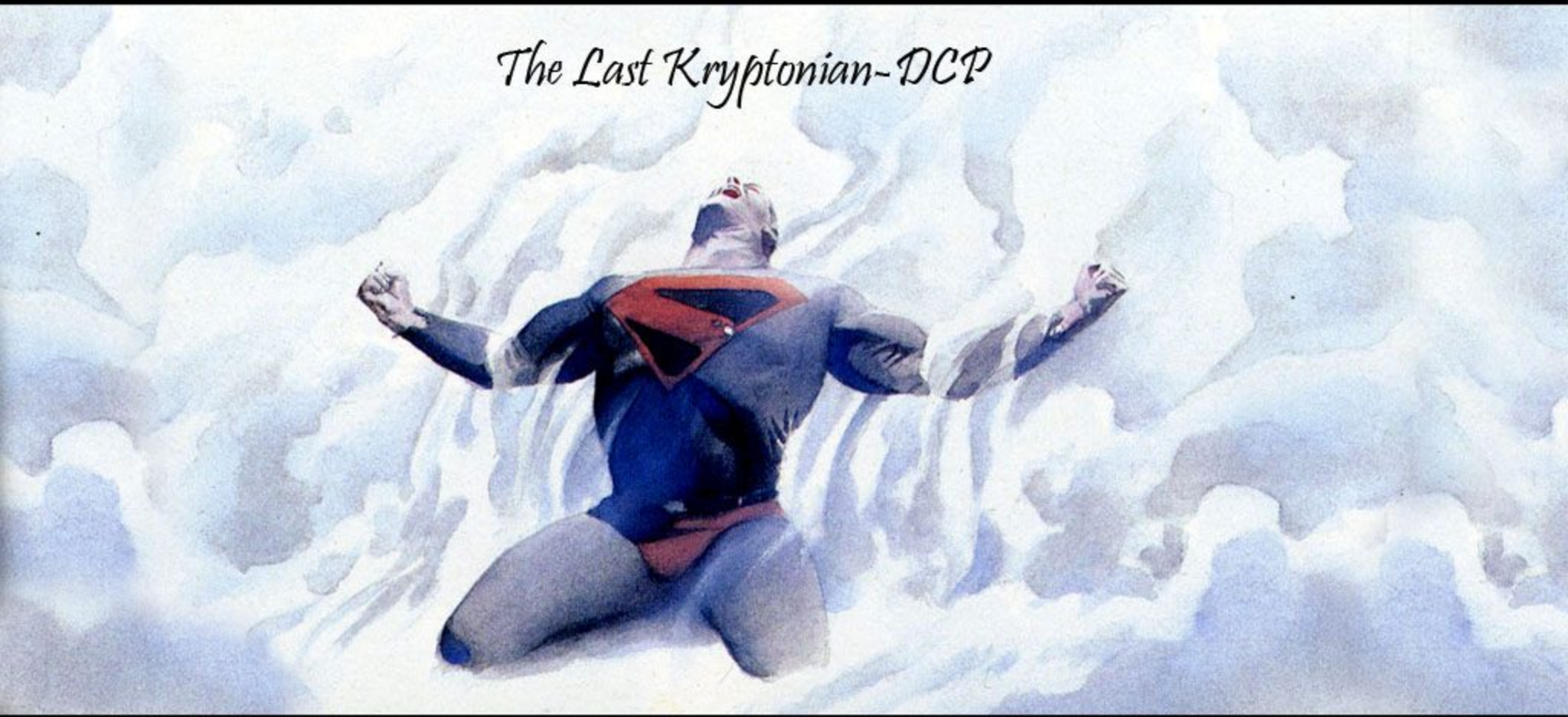
The Last Kryptonian-DCP